

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/S: J DAVIDOW:MIL

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P:GMOOSE

AF/S: D K PETTERSON

S/P: M SPIEGEL

IO: S ESCUDERO

S/S-PTARNOFF

AF: RM MOOSE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129396

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO OWEN'S LETTER

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE
TO DR. OWEN'S LETTER OF MAY 15 (SENT SEPTTEL). PLEASE
ARRANGE TO DELIVER IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR DAVID:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DETAILED LETTER ON THE POLICE QUESTION.
I DO NOT FIND ANY MAJOR DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US ON THE
SUBSTANCE OF THIS ISSUE. WE AGREE THAT AN EFFECTIVE
POLICE FORCE AS THE PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE MAINTEN-
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ANCE OF LAW AND ORDER IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY. WE ALSO AGREE THAT THE
RHODESIAN POLICE FORCE SHOULD REMAIN INTACT, WITH SOME
NECESSARY CHANGES AT THE TOP AND IN RELATION TO THE PARA-
MILITARY UNITS, DURING THE TRANSITION. THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL
ELEMENT OF OUR PROPOSALS ON WHICH WE CANNOT SHIFT OUR
POSITION.

I AM PLEASED THAT YOU SEE SOME MERIT IN THE IDEA OF ASSOCIATING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND OTHER NATIONALISTS WITH THE UN CIVILIAN POLICE OBSERVER FORCE. GRANTED,

THIS MAY NOT SATISFY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S DEMANDS FOR A REAL PRESENCE IN THE POLICE FORCE DURING THE TRANSITION, BUT PRESENTATION OF THE IDEA WOULD HELP TO CONVINCE THE FRONT LINE AND OTHERS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE CONCERNS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IT IS A CONCEPT WHICH, AS YOU NOTE, MIGHT SERVE AS A FACE-SAVER FOR NKOMO AND MUGABE AT SOME LATER POINT.

I AM ALSO PLEASED THAT YOU AGREE THAT WE SHOULD THINK OF BUILDING UP THE POLICE COMPONENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ZIMBABWE FORCE AND THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT WE CAN FIND A WAY TO ENSURE THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT SUPPORTERS ARE RECRUITED INTO THE POLICE FOR TRAINING DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

AS TO THE PROSPECT OF STEVE AND JOHNNY RAISING THESE POSSIBILITIES IN THEIR EXPLORATORY TALKS, I FULLY AGREE THAT FINAL DECISIONS ON THESE MATTERS MUST AWAIT AGREEMENT AMONG ALL THE PARTIES AT JOINT MEETINGS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO BRING THE PARTIES CLOSER TOGETHER, THE GRAHAM-LOW TEAM WILL HAVE TO MAKE ANY NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS, NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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ONLY ON POLICE, BUT OTHER ISSUES AS WELL, TO SEE IF ANY OF OUR IDEAS COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES. WE CANNOT DEPEND ON THE PARTIES THEMSELVES TO BE INNOVATIVE.

IN MAKING SUGGESTIONS THE TWO MEN WOULD ADHERE CLOSELY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THEY ARE ONLY OFFERING SUGGESTIONS TO BE NEGOTIATED FURTHER AMONG THE PARTIES; THEY WOULD NOT BE PRESENTING UNILATERAL NEW APPROACHES WHICH WOULD REPLACE OR MODIFY THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

AS GRAHAM AND LOW PREPARE FOR THEIR TRIP, I AM SURE WE WILL BOTH BE GIVING MORE THOUGHT TO THEIR MODE OF OPERATION AND THE TACTICS OF THEIR NEGOTIATING EFFORT.

WITH WARM REGARDS,

SINCERELY,

CY

END TEXT. VANCE

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